

FIG. 1

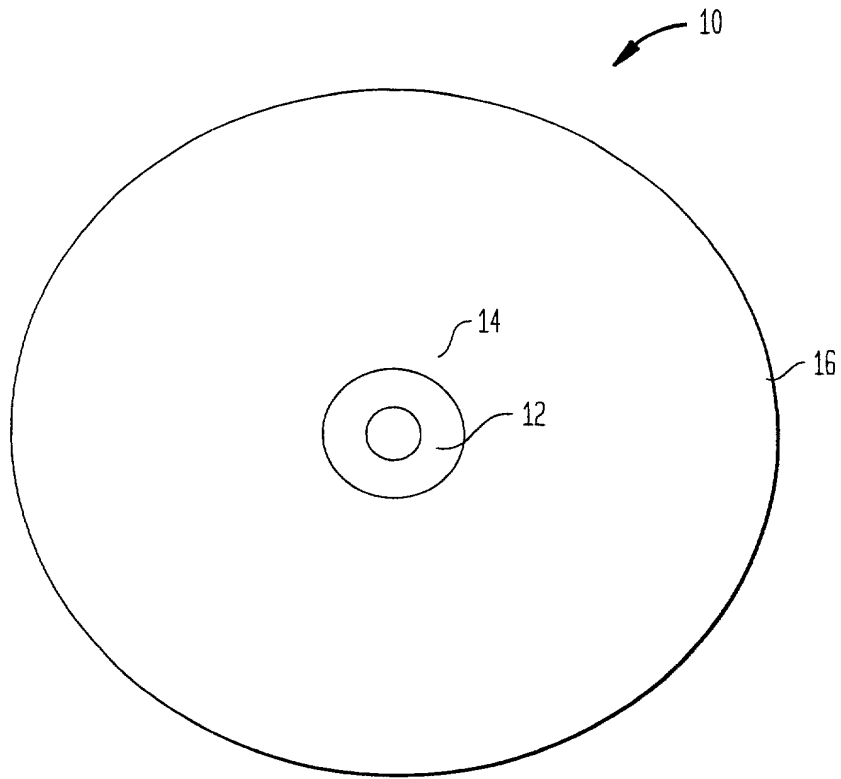
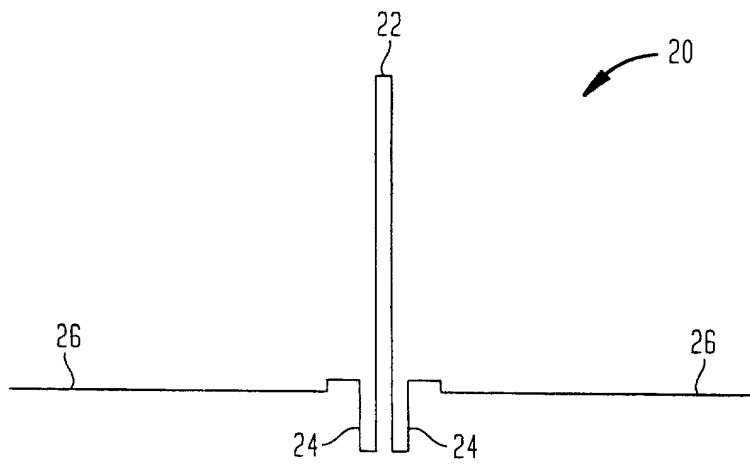


FIG. 2



0994875-100404

FIG. 3

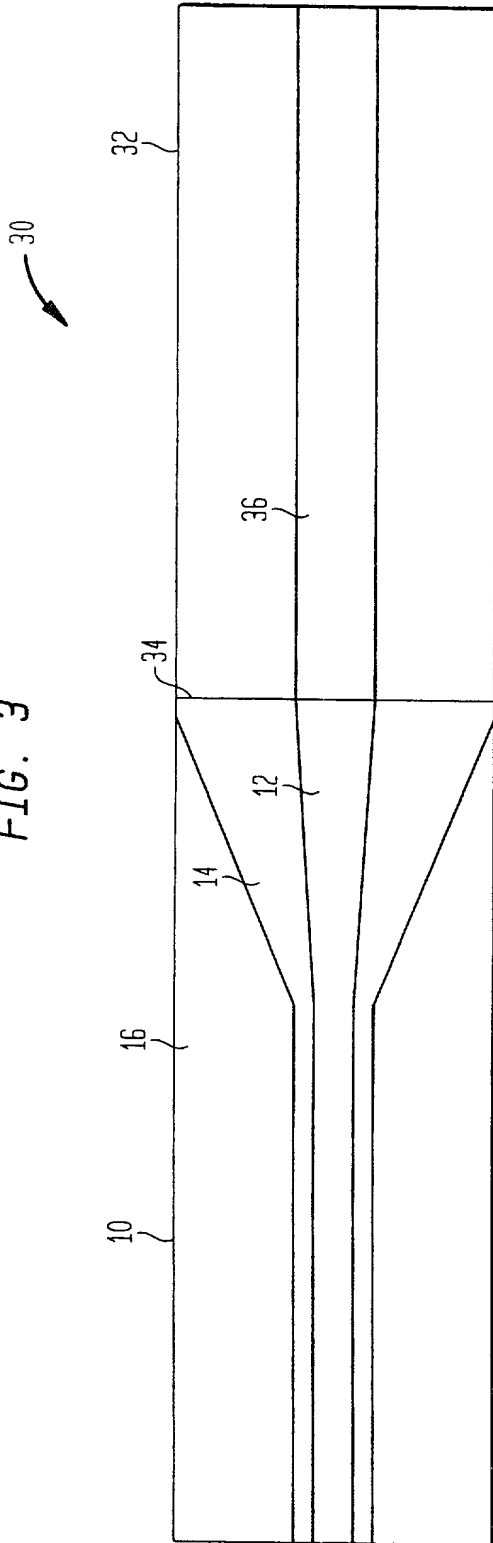


FIG. 4

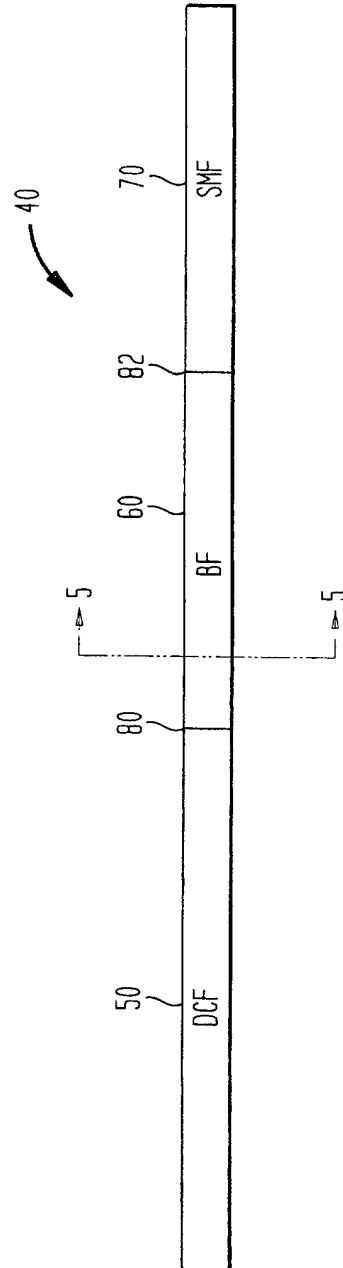


FIG. 5

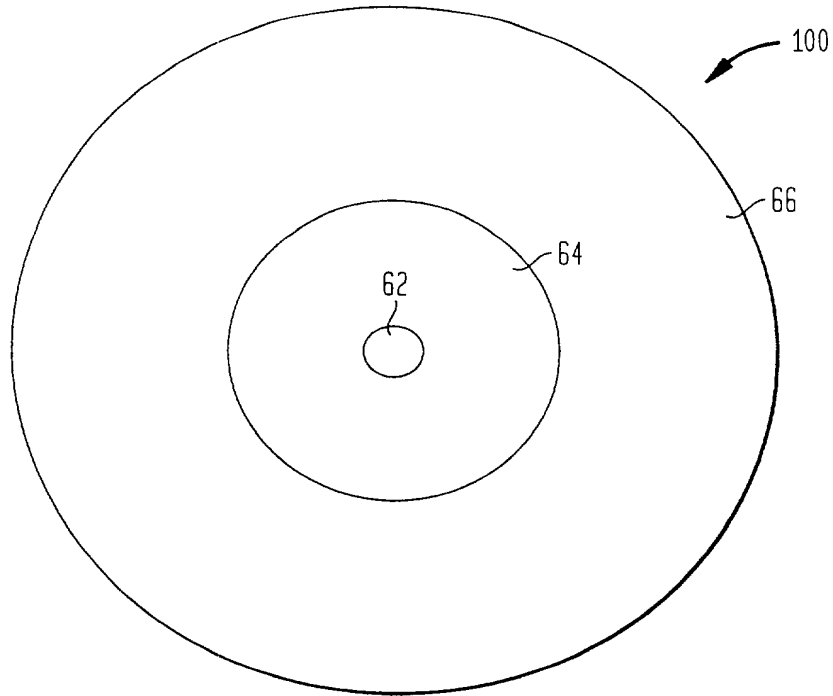


FIG. 6

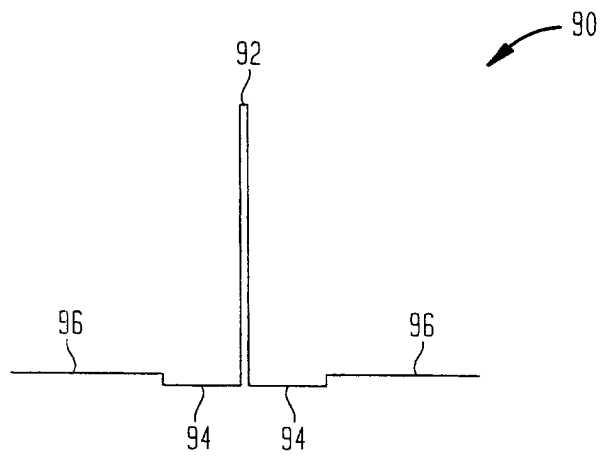


FIG. 7

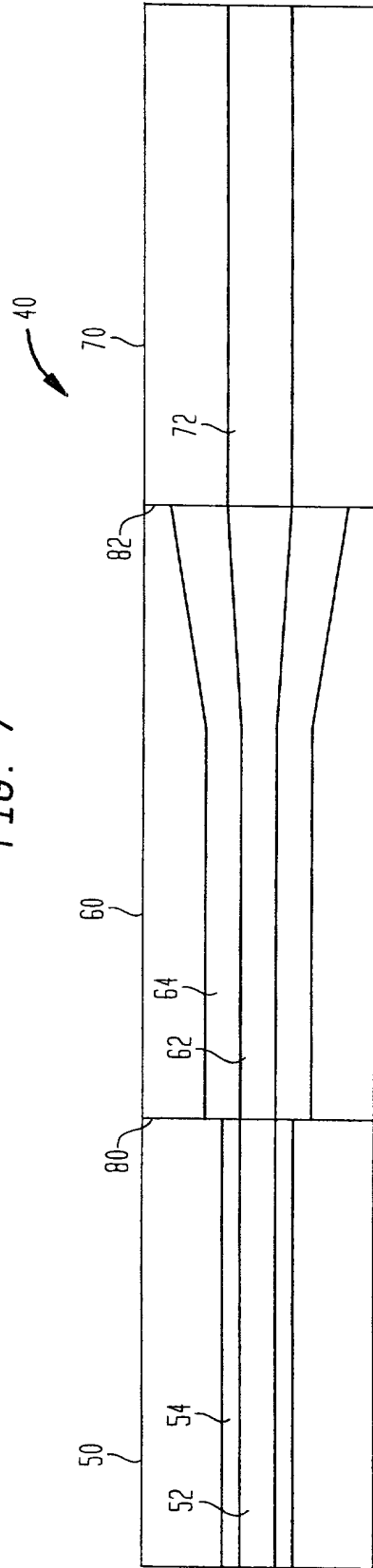


FIG. 8

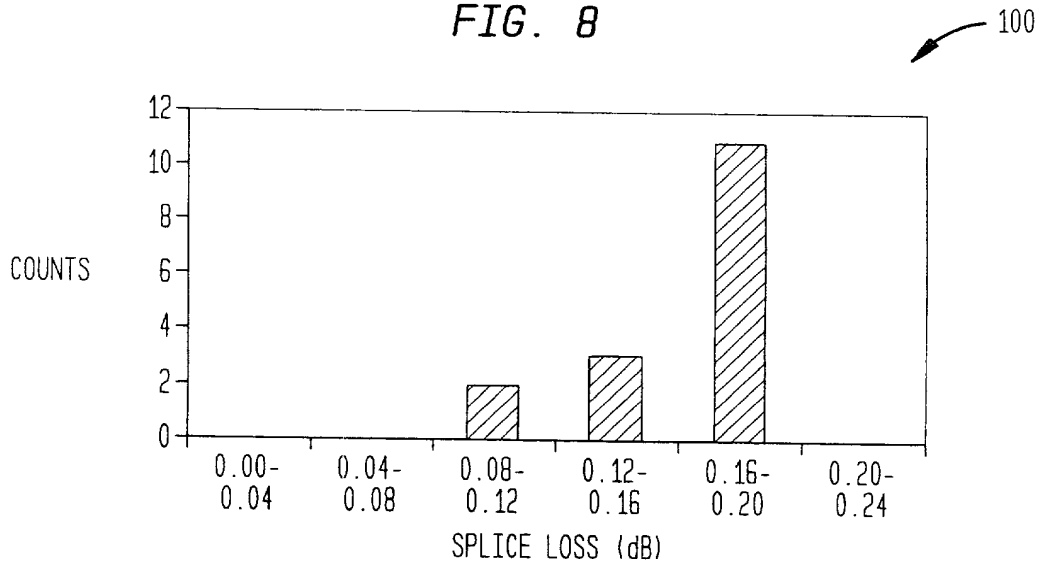


FIG. 9

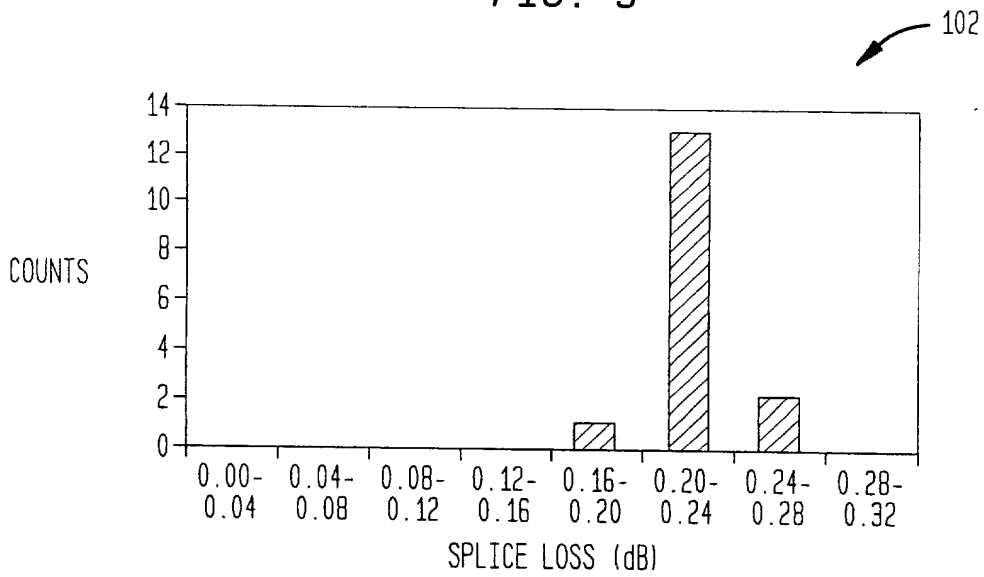


FIG. 10

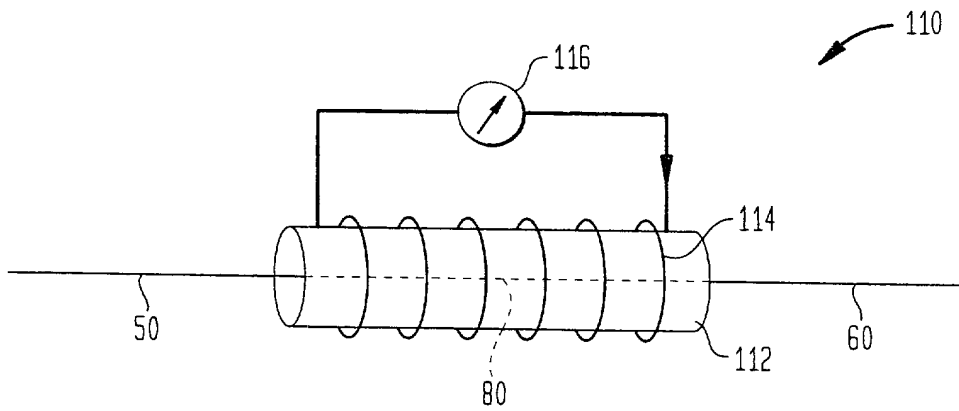


FIG. 11

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TIME (SEC.):	CURRENT (A):
0	0.0
1	11.5
41	10.5
51	9.5
54	9.0
57	8.5
60	8.0
63	7.5
66	7.0
69	6.5
72	6.0
77	5.5
82	5.0
87	3.5
92	2.0
97	0.5
100	0.0

FIG. 12

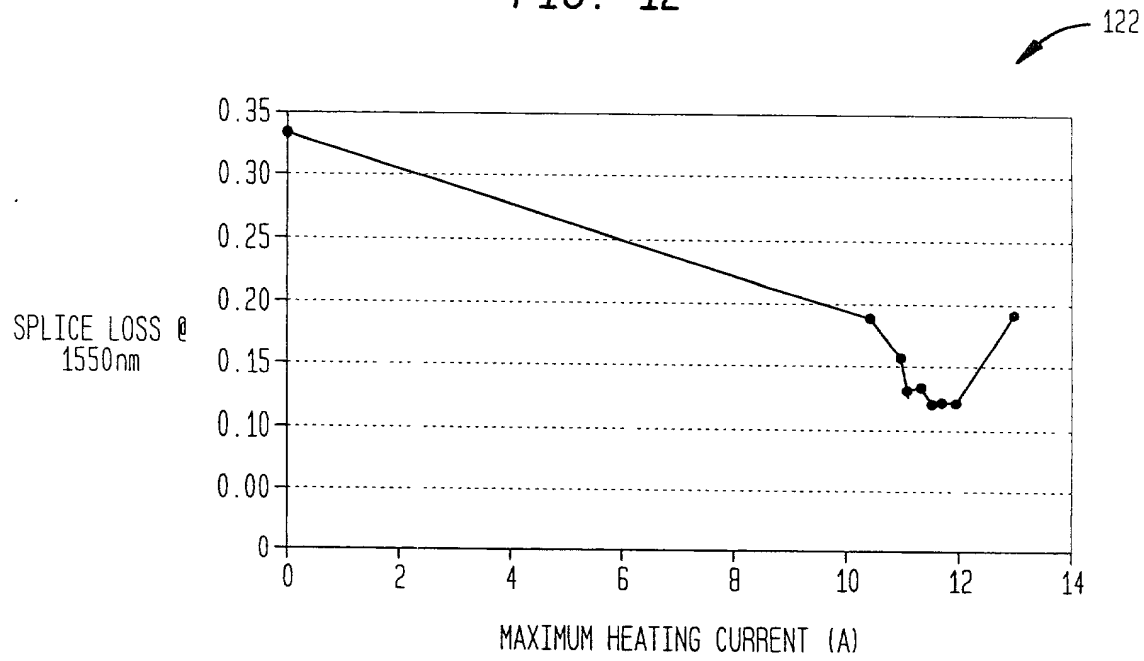


FIG. 13

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SPLICE LOSS BEFORE HEAT TREATMENT (dB) :	SPLICE LOSS AFTER HEAT TREATMENT (dB) :
0.17	0.10
0.37	0.13
0.33	0.10
0.32	0.10
0.31	0.18
0.27	0.17
0.27	0.10
0.24	0.09
0.28	0.06
0.29	0.19
0.34	0.16
0.30	0.10
0.35	0.12
0.37	0.15
0.37	0.18
0.44	0.16
0.45	0.17
AVERAGE VALUES :	
0.32	0.13

FIG. 14A

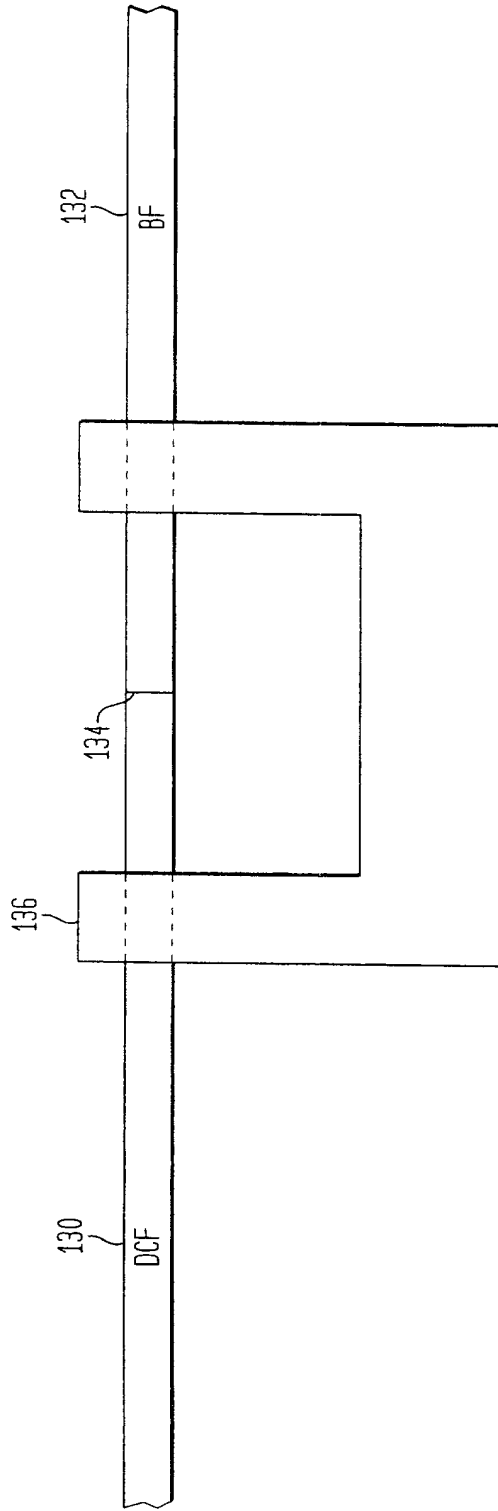


FIG. 14B

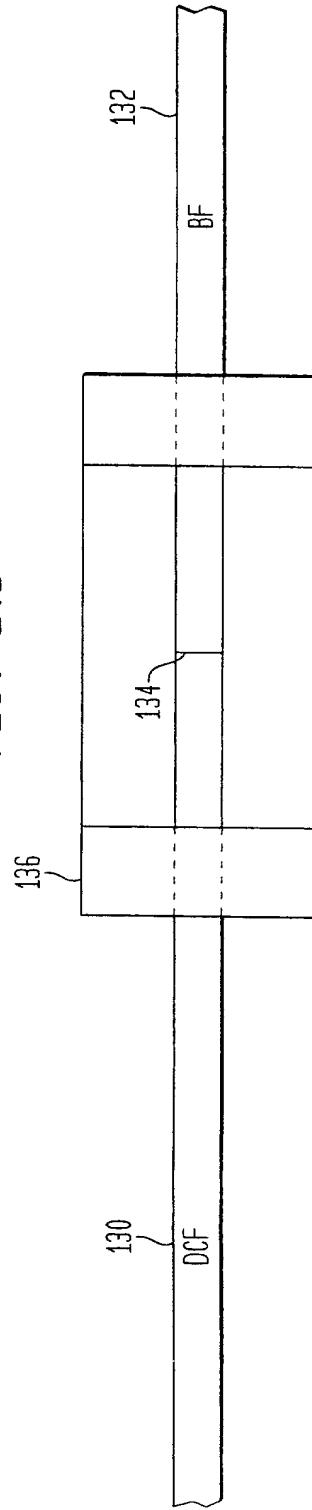
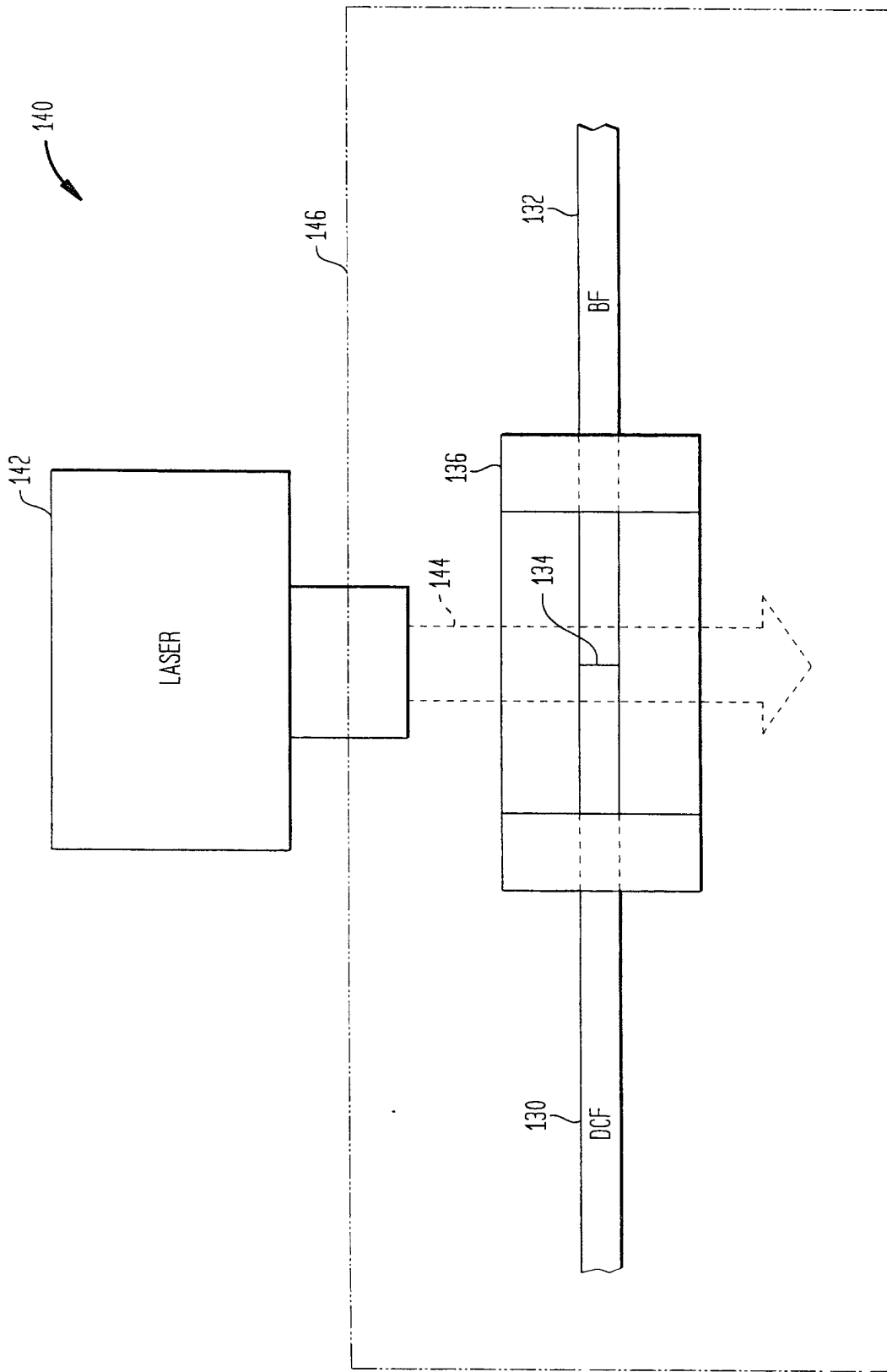


FIG. 15



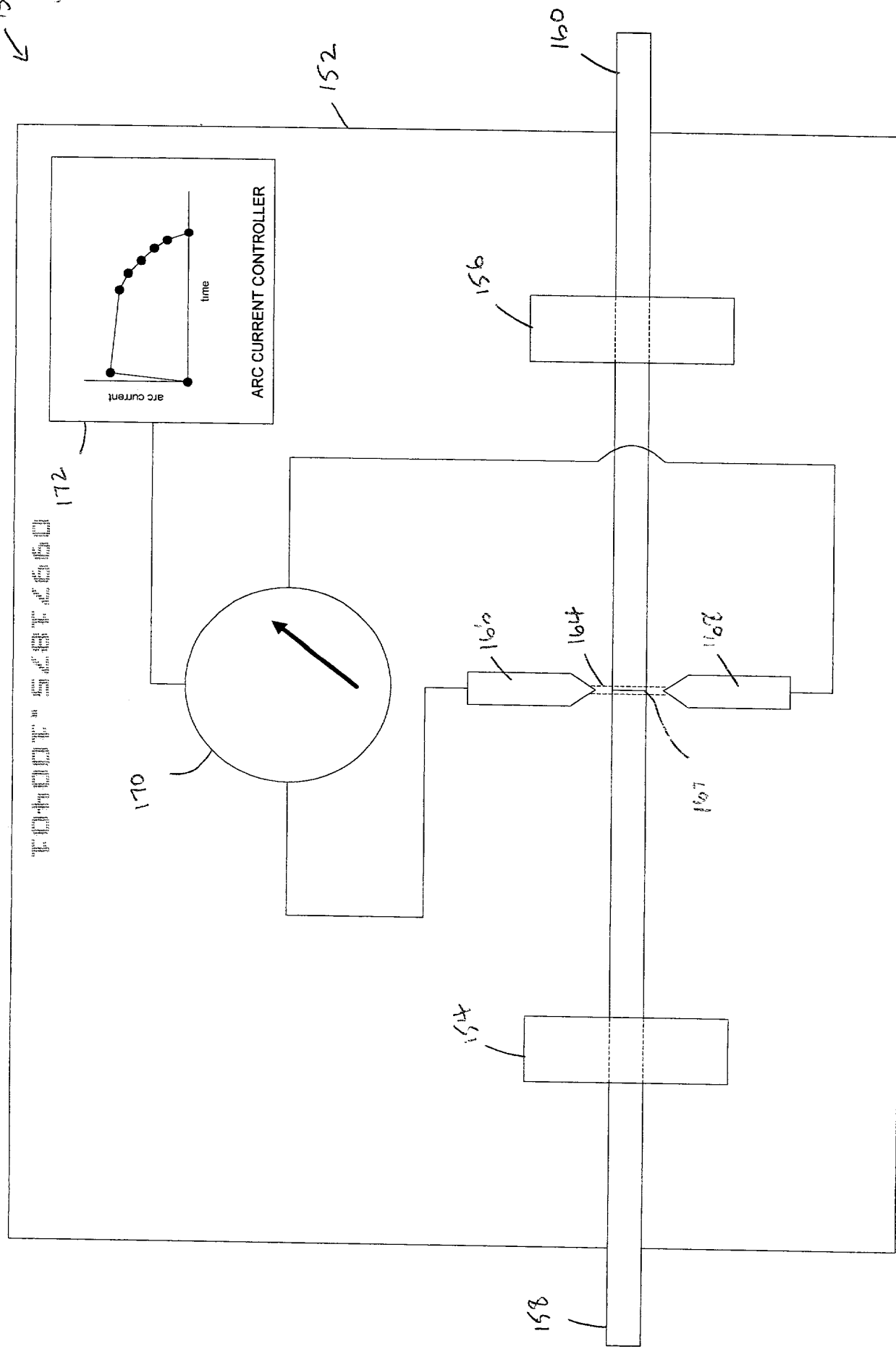


FIG. 16

START

SPlice FIRST AND SECOND
OPTICAL FIBERS TOGETHER.

REMOVE SPliced FIBERS FROM
SPLICER

HEAT SPlice TO PREDETERMINED
MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

COOL SPlice TO ROOM
TEMPERATURE USING
PREDETERMINED RAMP

FIG. 17

START

SPlice FIRST AND SECOND
OPTICAL FIBERS TOGETHER.

RAMP THE ARC CURRENT ON THE
SPLICER DOWNWARD TO ACHIEVE
A CONTROLLED DOWNWARD RAMP
OF THE TEMPERATURE AT SPlice
POINT FROM THE SPlicing
TEMPERATURE TO A COOLER
TEMPERATURE

REMOVE SPliced FIBERS FROM
SPLICER

FIG. 18